

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 02125 172243Z

73

ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01 NSC-05

OMB-01 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /036 W
----- 075957

R 172116Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7642

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FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE, SNM, AND HEAVNER, ARA/CAR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR BF

SUBJ: MODE: PROPOSED DEA OFFICE IN NASSAU

REF: (A) STATE 296899; (B) NASSAU 2079

1. POST ASSUMES THAT DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED FROM DEA HEADQUARTERS A COPY OF PROPOSAL GFGI-75-8005 OF ITS MIAMI FIELD OFFICE CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A THREE-MAN-YEAR DEA PRESENCE IN NASSAU (TWO PROFESSIONALS, ONE SECRETARY). WE RECEIVED A COPY OF PROPOSAL UNDER COVER OF DEC. 1 LETTER FROM MIAMI FIELD DIRECTOR FRED DICK PERSONALLY DELIVERED BY TWO DEA AGENTS.

2. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED OUR READINESS TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH A PRESENCE IF A PERSUASIVE CASE COULD BE MADE THAT SUCH PRESENCE WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY ENHANCE WHAT WE HAVE HERETOFORE CONSIDERED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE OPERATION OUT OF MIAMI. THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED TO US DOES NOT MAKE AN EFFECTIVE CASE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT TENDS TO CONFIRM OUR IMPRESSIONS THAT THE DRUG PROBLEM IN AND THROUGH THE BAHAMAS IS PRIMARILY A MARIJUANA PROBLEM AND THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN GCOB POLICE AND DEA UNDER EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS IS CLOSE, SUCCESSFUL AND IMPROVING.

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PAGE 02 NASSAU 02125 172243Z

2. MANY OF THE FIGURES IN THE PROPOSAL COULD BE MIS-

LEADING, SINCE THEY TEND TO LUMP APPLES AND ORANGES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF "TOTAL DRUG CASES" AND "TOTAL PERSONS ARRESTED" INVOLVED MARIJUANA AND, IN MOST CASES, SIMPLE POSSESSION AND USE OF A FEW OUNCES OF THAT DRUG. WHILE STATE 288945 REEMPHASIZES THAT THERE IS NO SHIFT PROPOSED IN U.S. LAWS AGAINST MARIJUANA, MESSAGE ALSO NOTED THAT "THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DEEMPHASIZING SIMPLE POSSESSION AND USE OF MARIJUANA IN ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS". ACCORDINGLY, IF LIMITATIONS ON OUR RESOURCES DICTATE PRIORITY EFFORT BE DEVOTED TO MORE DANGEROUS DRUGS SUCH AS HEROIN, THEN BASED ON DEA PROPOSAL, IT IS HARD TO JUSTIFY A GREATER DEA PRESENCE IN THE BAHAMAS. OF THE 12 CASES CITED IN APPENDICES A AND B TO THE PROPOSAL, 10 INVOLVED MARIJUANA OR HASHISH AND ONLY ONE INVOLVED HEROIN CARRIED BY A COURIER ABOARD A COMMERCIAL AIRLINER. WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT SUCH MEANS ARE IN WIDESPREAD USE, AS INTIMATED IN THE PROPOSAL, NOR DO WE FEEL THAT THE U.S. CUSTOMS PRECLEARANCE UNIT IS A "MERE FORMALITY" OR THAT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD. IN FACT, UNIT HAS RECENTLY UNCOVERED LARGE SMUGGLING ATTEMPT AND IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT IN SOME CASES UNIT ALERTS STATE-SIDE OFFICIALS TO APPREHEND OR SURVEIL SUSPECTS.

3. ASIDE FROM THE INTERNAL MERITS OF THE PROPOSAL, IN CONSIDERING IT THE DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO KEEP IN MIND THE PRESENTLY HEIGHTENED GCOB SENSIBILITIES ABOUT USG AGENTS IN THE BAHAMAS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT IN LIGHT OF DEA AGENTS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO ESTABLISH COVERT CONTACTS IF UNIT IS SET UP IN EMBASSY.

4. IF, THESE CONSIDERATIONS ASIDE, DEA CAN MAKE A MORE PERSUASIVE CASE THAN THAT CONTAINED IN PROPOSAL PROVIDED TO US, I.E. THAT THEIR PRESENCE HERE WOULD APPRECIABLY ENHANCE OUR DRUG ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES, WE ARE WILLING TO RECONSIDER OUR POSITION. IN ABSENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NASSAU 02125 172243Z

OF SUCH JUSTIFICATION WE RECOMMEND AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF DEA UNIT IN EMBASSY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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